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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

August 18, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director  
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program  
1416 Ninth St. Suite 1155  
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

Re: Final Programmatic EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

Cal-Fed must recognize California farmland as a valuable environmental resource. The Cal-Fed plan would take nearly 250,000 acres out of production. Cal-Fed has not given enough thought to the environmental impact of this land conversion. The plan needs to look for ways to reduce the loss of farmland.

Who will make up the loss in taxes if this land is take out of production? What governmental agency will cut their budget to make up the loss?

Cal-Fed should work with farmers on voluntary habitat conservation. That way the land can help feed our growing population and provide habitat at the same time.

Farmers can not provide habitat or feed people without reliable and affordable water. Cal-Fed must develop water storage for adequate yield. New storage will help guarantee water for the environment in dry years and benefit everyone.

I think Cal-Fed should hold public hearings to explain its plans before they become final. Cal-Fed should tell us how its plan has changed and how it will affect people. Cal-Fed should not finalize its plan until citizens have adequate opportunity to review it and comment upon it.

Sincerely,



Jerry E. Duarte  
P.O.Box 269  
Knightsen, Ca. 94548

cc: Senator Dianne Feinstein, Governor Gray Davis, County Sup. Joe Cancimilla  
Senator Barbara Boxer, State Sen. Richard Rainey  
Rep. George Miller, Assemblywomen Lynne Leach